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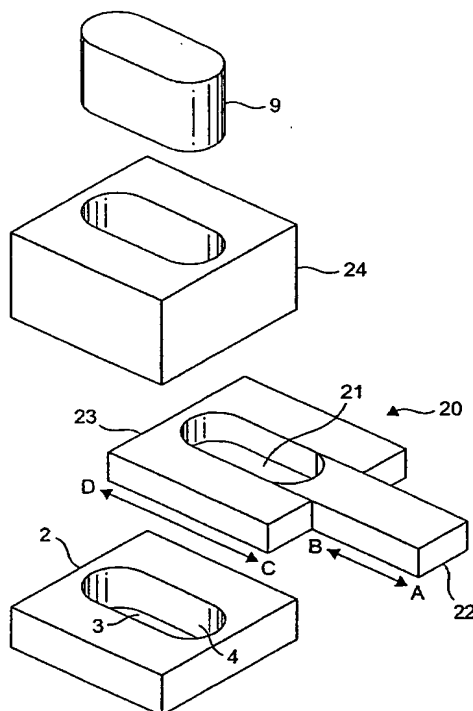
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(54) Title: APPARATUS FOR COMPACTING POWDER



(57) Abstract: An apparatus for compacting a powder comprises: i) a die (2) including a piston chamber (4) having an entrance for receiving a piston; ii) dosing means (20) adapted to dispense a free flowing powder through said entrance and into said piston chamber; and iii) a piston (9) having a cross-sectional area reciprocal with the piston chamber (4) and being adapted such that in use the piston enters said chamber, thereby to compact any powder in said chamber, and then exits said chamber. The dosing means (20) comprises a plurality of juxtaposed components (22, 23) between which components is formed a dosing cavity (21) for receiving and dispensing powder. The volume of the cavity (21) and at least the cross-sectional area of the cavity perpendicular to the direction of flow of the powder when the powder is dispensed into the piston chamber (4) are variable by adjustment of the respective positions of the juxtaposed components (22, 23) such that when powder is received into the dosing cavity (21) said volume and cross-sectional area is greater than when powder is dispensed from said cavity into said piston chamber (4). The apparatus is useful for reducing dust in powder compaction processes.

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